

**TONY** Price, Wycombe's wayward genius, turned in a brilliant performance as Wanderers returned to form with a delightful victory over stubborn Hitchin Town at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

After the previous Saturday's 5-0 drubbing by Dagenham, which Price had to watch from the stands, the talented winger clearly decided to make a determined bid to regain his regular place in the side.

So when Mike Keen gave him his chance against Hitchin, Price grabbed it with both hands. He has never been regarded as a 90 minute battler but on this occasion he gave 100 per cent effort for the whole game.

### Inter-passing

Price, who appeared to have been given a roving commission upfront, turned up in all unlikely positions, scored Wanderers first goal and seemed to be saying to Mr Keen, "don't you dare drop me now."

There is something about Hitchin that brings out the

best in Price. He scored a hat-trick at Top Field last season, and also scored the winner in the return encounter at Loakes Park.

However, this was far from a one man show — Price's display was purely the icing on the cake. During the second half, Wycombe produced some of the best football of the season, with long series of inter passing and clever intricate moves which bemused Hitchin, who one of the best of the best possess defensive records in the league.

If there has to be a criticism of their performance, it was their failure to convert their superiority into goals. But this was not easy against a side who had come to defend.

During the match Wanderers forced 12 corners, but not from one of them did they create a scoring chance. This was largely due to some shoddy dead ball kicks. This, I suggest, is an area for improvement.

Paul Birdseye, who seems to specialise in spectacular near misses, added another to his collection after just five minutes with a rocket of a 25 yard shot which keeper Brian Robinson did well to deflect for a corner.

## By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe 2, Hitchin 0

However, Robinson, short of stature, then had trouble with a teasing cross from Jimmy Jacobs but he just managed to palm the ball away as Terry Glynn challenged. Wanderers found the net in the 24th minute following a neat 1-2 between Steve Long and Terry Glynn, but the effort was disallowed for off-side.

### Pattern

At the other end Gary Lester still looked a little nervous following his poor game at Dagenham and had trouble collecting Steve Mahoney's high cross but the danger was cleared.

Despite forcing much of the pace Wanderers were still level at the interval and the pattern continued for the first part of the second half as well. On occasions like these, the defending team often breaks away to score.

But just as the small Wycombe crowd was becoming anxious, Wycombe broke the deadlock in the 58th minute.

Mick Holifield played an inch perfect pass through the middle to Price, who eluded the defence before striking home a sweet shot inside the

right hand post from 15 yards.

Holifield was by now producing all his old skills and he saw a shot blocked after a fine 1-2 with Terry Glynn, before having a vital influence on Wycombe's second goal 13 minutes from time.

Again Holifield found a gap in the middle of the Hitchin defence and this time he shot. But on its way towards the target, the ball struck Jacobs on the back of the heel and trickled over the line past the stranded Robinson. Possibly the softest goal of the season, therefore, will be credited to Jacobs.

The Wycombe defence, as it is wont, became a little casual in the closing stages and Mahoney should have scored with a close range header. But Wycombe held on to extend their unbeaten home run to 12 league and cup games, in front of interested Bournemouth manager Alec Stock.

**WYCOMBE:** G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell, S. Long, J. Jacobs, T. Glynn (sub: K. Wilson 86 mins), A. Price, M. Holifield.

**HITCHIN:** B. Robinson; K. Hammond, A. Martin, G. Sisman, M. Eldridge, T. Mortimer, P. Adams, K. Mulkern, P. Giggles, S. Mahoney, M. Small. Sub: R. Chandler (not used).

**Referee:** C. Grady (Lighthwater).  
**Half-time:** 0-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Price (58 mins), Jacobs (77).  
**Attendance:** 750.

# Changes are unlikely against Barking

**WYCOMBE'S** new look forward line with Tony Price in place of Gary Toll, played so well against Hitchin on Tuesday that manager Mike Keen seems unlikely to make any changes for the Berger Isthmian League match at home to Barking tomorrow (Saturday).

The resting of Toll, who has worked hard in recent weeks without undue success, was always on the cards and Price's extra speed has given the forward line an added dimension.

### Stand tickets

Toll's main advantage over Price seemed to be that he was a 90 minute player who gave total commitment. But if Price maintains the work rate he showed against Hitchin, he must keep his place. Toll is likely to be named as substitute tomorrow, as new signing Ken Wilson will be cup-tied in a week's time for the Bournemouth game.

Considering the big cup game is less than a fortnight away, Tuesday night's attendance was a disappointing one.

One added incentive of coming tomorrow is that stand tickets for the Bournemouth match will be on sale at £1.30 and £1.50. Fans are reminded that it is not an all ticket match.

Barking must be in confident mood following their massive 4-2 victory over Enfield in what must have resembled a grudge match on Tuesday.

Wycombe's final game before the Bournemouth game will be a tough looking Berks and Bucks Senior Cup second round match at home to Aylesbury next Tuesday. Southern Leaguers Aylesbury will be particularly keen to do well

after losing to Barnet at the third attempt in their fourth qualifying round F.A. Cup tie.

### BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	21	10	8	3	45	27	38
Dagenham	22	10	7	5	46	31	37
Slough	17	9	6	2	24	14	33
Bromley	18	9	5	4	35	24	32
Harrow	21	9	5	7	36	25	32
<b>Wycombe</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>
Dulwich	19	7	8	4	30	25	29
Sutton	18	7	7	4	32	27	28
<b>*Barking</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>
Leytonstone	17	7	4	6	33	30	25
Walthamstow	17	7	3	7	19	27	24
Woking	20	7	3	10	25	33	24
Tooting	20	6	5	9	23	29	23
Staines	19	6	4	9	21	28	22
Carshalton	18	7	1	10	26	36	22
Hitchin	16	5	5	6	22	18	20
Harlow	18	4	7	7	23	29	19
Hayes	16	5	4	7	12	20	19

### SUBURBAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

Boreham Wood	17	4	7	6	22	31	19
Croydon	17	3	9	5	15	17	18
Hendon	17	4	5	8	21	25	17
Leatherhead	22	2	10	10	15	26	16

\* Two points deducted.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harrow	14	12	1	1	50	15	25
Farnboro	13	8	2	3	29	17	18
Staines	14	8	2	4	34	12	18
Hounslow	12	7	4	1	23	14	18
Slough	12	7	3	2	31	10	17
Wembley	15	6	5	4	31	24	17
Wealdstone	13	7	1	5	28	18	16
Hillingdon B	14	6	2	6	24	21	14
Feltham	14	5	3	6	18	25	13
Wycombe W	12	4	3	5	14	19	11
Chertsey	12	4	2	6	14	34	10
Addlestone	13	3	3	7	15	15	9
Egham	14	3	3	8	16	35	9
Fleet	15	3	3	9	19	41	9
Southall	14	2	4	8	10	24	8
Cammerley	12	2	1	9	12	36	5
Corinthian	3	0	0	3	0	8	0